

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1476

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served: December 1, 1975

Investigation of INTERSTATE)
TAXICAB RATES Prescribed for)
District of Columbia Taxicabs)

Docket No. 301

The Commission has the duty and the power to prescribe reasonable rates for interstate transportation by taxicab within the Metropolitan District. 1/ Such rates may be set on a mileage basis, a zone basis, or any other basis approved by the Commission, except that the Commission may not require meters where they are not already permitted or required.

Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland, and the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, Arlington County and Fairfax County, Virginia, taxicabs are equipped with meters which use a mileage-time basis for determining local fares. The taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission are not equipped with meters and use a zone basis to determine local fares.

Where feasible and appropriate, the Commission has adopted the local taxicab rates as the interstate rates. Thus, we require locally licensed and regulated metered taxicabs to use their meters for fare determination on interstate taxicab trips. Their incidental charges also apply except that a uniform charge of 20¢ for each additional passenger in excess of one has been adopted.

District of Columbia taxicabs, however, operate on a zone basis which is not readily adaptable to interstate use. For these taxicabs the Commission has implemented a system of interstate rates based on odometer mileage. The level of these rates was established most recently by Order No. 1305, served February 22, 1974. The following table sets forth comparative rate information as of the date of issuance of Order No. 1305.

1/ The Metropolitan District includes the District of Columbia, the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, Virginia, the counties of Arlington and Fairfax, Virginia, and Montgomery and Prince George's, Maryland, and Dulles International Airport.

TABLE I

	Actual Rates		Rates Converted To Miles	
	Initial Charge	Rate After Initial Charge	First Mile	Subsequent Miles
Alexandria	60¢ 1st 1/3	10¢ ea. 1/6	\$1.00	60¢
Arlington	50¢ 1st 1/2	10¢ ea. 1/6	80¢	60¢
District of Columbia	70¢ 1st mile	30¢ ea. 1/2	70¢	60¢
Fairfax-Falls Church	60¢ 1st 2/3	10¢ ea. 1/6	80¢	60¢
Montgomery	60¢ 1st 3/5	10¢ ea. 1/5	80¢	50¢
Prince George's	70¢ 1st 5/6	10¢ ea. 1/6	80¢	60¢

The following table compares the interstate fares at the different rates for single passenger trips of 5, 10 and 15 miles without incidental charges, as of the date of issuance of Order No. 1305.

TABLE II

	5 Miles	10 Miles	15 Miles
Alexandria	\$3.40	\$6.40	\$9.40
Arlington	3.20	6.20	9.20
District of Columbia	3.10	6.10	9.10
Fairfax-Falls Church	3.20	6.20	9.20
Montgomery	2.80	6.30	9.30
Prince George's	3.20	6.20	9.20

Since Order No. 1305 was issued, several of the local jurisdictions using meters have prescribed new, higher local rates in response to the increasing cost of rendering taxicab service and the need, in the public interest, to maintain an adequate and efficient transportation service by taxicab operators at the lowest cost consistent with the furnishing of such service. Under our Order No. 67, served October 9, 1961, these increases are automatically incorporated into the interstate fare system. On November 14, 1975, the District of Columbia Public Service Commission approved an increase in the local zone fares effective December 1, 1975. However, reconsideration of that order has been sought and the effective date has been stayed.

The Commission has reviewed the recent local increases and prepared the following two tables reflecting the current 2/ interstate rates and fares.

- 2/ On November 26, 1975, the Prince George's County Council approved rates of 90¢ for the first 4/7ths mile and 10¢ for each additional 1/7th, which converts to \$1.20 for the first mile and 70¢ for each subsequent mile. The bill has not yet been signed and will not become effective until 45 days after signing.

TABLE IA

	<u>Actual Rates</u>		<u>Rates Converted To Miles</u>	
	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Rate After</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Subsequent</u>
	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Initial Charge</u>	<u>Mile</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Alexandria	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	\$1.10	70¢
Arlington	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.10	70¢
District of Columbia	70¢ 1st mile	30¢ ea. 1/2	70¢	60¢
Fairfax-Falls Church	60¢ 1st 2/3	10¢ ea. 1/6	80¢	60¢
Montgomery	60¢ 1st 1/2	10¢ ea. 1/6	90¢	60¢
Prince George's	70¢ 1st 5/6	10¢ ea. 1/6	80¢	60¢

TABLE IIA

	<u>5 Miles</u>	<u>10 Miles</u>	<u>15 Miles</u>
Alexandria	\$3.90	\$7.40	\$10.90
Arlington	3.90	7.40	10.90
District of Columbia	3.10	6.10	9.10
Fairfax-Falls Church	3.20	6.20	9.20
Montgomery	3.30	6.30	9.30
Prince George's	3.20	6.20	9.20

Comparison of Tables I and II and Tables IA and IIA indicates the amount of increase in interstate rates for metered taxicabs. The interstate taxicab rates prescribed in Order No. 1305 for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission are out of parity with those now being received by taxicabs licensed and regulated by other local jurisdictions. The Commission therefore shall, on its own motion (see Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 13), institute an investigation to determine whether the current interstate taxicab rates prescribed for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission are unjust, unreasonable, or unduly preferential or unduly discriminatory either between riders or sections of the Metropolitan District. See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 6. If the Commission so finds, then it shall issue an order prescribing the lawful fare, regulation, or practice to be in effect.

The Commission shall request comments by interested parties on the following proposed interstate rate structure for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. The proposed rates set forth below are only those which differ from those prescribed in Order No. 1305. A complete schedule of proposed rates is attached to this order as Appendix A.

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
First mile or part thereof	70¢	85¢
Each additional one-half mile or part thereof	30¢	35¢
Each additional passenger in excess of one	20¢	40¢
Hourly rental charge	\$5.50	\$7.00

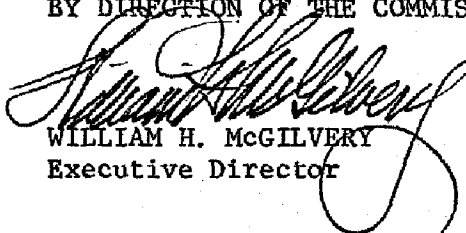
The Commission solicits the views of any interested party on this proposed interstate rate design, and invites separate proposals of appropriate interstate rate structure other than that proposed herein. The proposals should be supported with statements justifying the change from the current to the proposed interstate rate structure. These proposals, views and statements should be filed with the Commission in writing on or before Monday, December 2, 1975.

The Commission staff shall cause notice of this order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District on or before Saturday, December 6, 1975.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an investigation be made of the existing interstate taxicab rates for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission.
2. That the Commission staff shall cause notice of this order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District on or before Saturday, December 6, 1975.
3. That any person desiring to file with the Commission written proposals, views and statements on this matter shall do so on or before Monday, December 2, 1975.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
(in taxicabs licensed and regulated by the
District of Columbia Public Service Commission)

85¢	First mile, or part thereof
35¢	Each additional 1/2 mile, or part thereof
40¢	Each additional passenger

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of \$.10 for each such piece. Brief cases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$1.00 each. A trunk is herein described as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32" by 18" by 9" or 3 cubic feet.

The charge for personal service shall be \$.50; taxicab service in response to a telephone call, \$.50 in addition to all other authorized charges; dismissal of a taxicab without using it after response to a telephone call, \$.50 in addition to the charge for responding; waiting time in excess of five minutes \$.25 for each five minutes or fraction thereof up to a total of forty-five minutes after which the rate of \$1.00 for each fifteen minutes shall apply.

The charge for a taxicab employed on an hourly basis shall be as follows:
For the first hour or fraction thereof - \$7.00;
For each additional fifteen minutes or fraction thereof - \$1.75.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOTICE OF CORRECTION TO

ORDER NO. 1476

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served: December 1, 1975

Investigation of INTERSTATE)
TAXICAB RATES Prescribed for)
District of Columbia Taxicabs)

Docket No. 301

Order No. 1476, page 4, twice mentions the date
"Monday, December 2, 1975." In both instances, the date should
have been "Monday, December 29, 1975." Please correct your
copy of Order No. 1476.

Notice of Correction
Issued December 2, 1975